

Wilmington University School of Law's Multi-Year Mentor Program 2024-25

This is Part I of a multi-year mentoring program which creates opportunities for students to interact with and learn from legal professionals in our community as they move through their legal education.

Students are expected to participate in the Mentoring Program during the 1L year. As a 1L, each student is paired with a mentor. This approach is designed to give 1Ls the opportunity to get to know a legal professional on an individual basis and have conversations one-on-one. Utilizing this structure for the first year will simplify finding time for the student and mentor to connect.

We recognize there is great value in meeting face-to-face and realize valuable conversations can take place in other ways as well. We ask for in-person attendance at two meetings for the 1L Mentor Program: the opening event where students and mentors will be brought together to launch this program each year and the closing meeting where we will share highlights and close the program for the academic year. The outline, expectations, and a proposed schedule can be found below.

Mentor Requirements:

- Licensed attorney for 5 years
- Be in good legal standing and no grievances on file

Mentor Expectations:

- Support and participate in the Program Expectations outlined below
- Reach out to your mentee monthly to schedule meetings and check in
- Respond to law school surveys requesting feedback

Student Expectations:

- Participation is required
- Participate and fully engage in the Program Expectations outlined below
- Review and practice Mentor Program Etiquette
- Provide written reflection (Canvas) following meetings with your mentor
- Respond to law school surveys requesting feedback

Program Participation Expectations:

- Attend the opening and closing meetings which will take place in person
- Meet a minimum of 4 additional times throughout the academic year; one meeting should include attending a Bar Association meeting/event with your mentor
- Refer to proposed meeting schedule

Proposed Meeting Schedule

The proposed schedule includes six meetings. WilmU Law asks for in-person attendance at two meetings: the opening event where students and mentors are brought together to launch the program and the closing meeting where we share highlights and close the program for the academic year. For the remaining meetings, general topics are noted to help direct the discussion and pairs are encouraged to cover other topics of interest to the student. Mentors and students determine how they will meet and when to attend a Bar Association event.

September: In-Person Opening Meeting (Law School, Date TBD)

- Opening Remarks, Intro to Program Structure, Mentor Pairs introduced
- Break outs to allow students and mentors to introduce themselves and for pairs to discuss goals and meeting schedule

October: Mentor-Student (format determined by pair)

- Getting to know the Delaware State Bar Assoc.
- Discuss possible date for DSBA event attendance

November: Mentor-Student (format determined by pair)

- Professionalism-what it means and how it fits in-everywhere
- Lawyers Giving Back-What is expected from the profession

January: Mentor-Student (format determined by pair)

- Ethical Issues that arise
- Important considerations for new attorneys

February: DSBA/Bar Association Event (or exchange for another month)

- Opportunity to meet and be introduced to attorneys and judges
- Explore areas of interest

End of March or April: In-Person Closing Meeting (Law School, Date TBD)

- Wrap Up, Comments and Reflections

Suggestions for additional discussion topics: Practice Area interests, Wellness, Ethical issues, Professionalism, Leadership in the Law